

"Coastal Zone Consistency Review of Exploration Plans and Development and Production Plans" (RIN1010-AC42), received September 27, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5465. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled "Notice of EPA Policy Regarding Certain Grants to Intertribal Consortia", received September 27, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5466. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflubezuron; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL #6382-1), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5467. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pymetrozine; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL #6385-6), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5468. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL #6383-6), received September 24, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 858. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to extend coverage under the whistleblower protection provisions of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to personnel of the courts of the District of Columbia (Rept. No. 106-167).

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1672. An original bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a program of mandatory market reporting for certain meat packers regarding the prices, quantities, and terms of sale for the procurement of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock, to improve the collection of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-168).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, for the Committee on the Judiciary:

Robert Raben, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Andrew Fois, resigned.

Robert S. Mueller, III, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California for a term of four years.

John Hollingsworth Sinclair, of Vermont to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

By Mr. LOTT for Mr. MCCAIN, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Thomas B. Leary, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 1998.

Stephen D. Van Beek, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Michael J. Frazier, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Steven O. Palmer.

Gregory Rohde, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

Linda Joan Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2003.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) David S. Belz, 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) James S. Carmichael, 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) Roy J. Casto, 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) James A. Kinghorn, Jr., 0000

Rear Adm. (1h) Erroll M. Brown, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Ralph D. Utley, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicted under Title 10, United States Code, Section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Carlton D. Moore, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicted under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Mary P. O'Donnell, 0000

The following named officer of the United States Coast Guard to be a member of the Permanent Commissioned Teaching Staff of the Coast Guard Academy in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 188:

To be lieutenant commander

Kurt A. Sebastian, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Vivien S. Crea, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to

the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kenneth T. Venuto, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. James W. Underwood, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicted under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. James C. Olson, 0000

Mr. LOTT for Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I report favorably nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated at the end of the days Senate proceedings, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 83 nominations beginning Donald A. Dreves, and ending Kevin V. Werner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 9, 1999

Coast Guard 42 nominations beginning Ernest J. Fink, and ending William J. Wagner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 13, 1999

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 1669. A bill to require country of origin labeling of peanuts and peanut products and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1670. A bill to revise the boundary of Fort Matanzas National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 1671. A bill to reform the financing of Federal elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1672. An original bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a program of mandatory market reporting for certain meat packers regarding the prices, quantities, and terms of sale for the procurement of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock, to improve the collection of information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and products of such livestock, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DeWINE (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1673. A bill to amend titles 10 and 18, United States Code, to protect unborn victims of violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1674. A bill to promote small schools and smaller learning communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 1675. A bill to provide for school dropout prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1676. A bill to improve accountability for schools and local educational agencies under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 1677. A bill to establish a child centered program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. Res. 192. A resolution extending birthday greetings and best wishes to Jimmy Carter in recognition of his 75th birthday; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DODD:

S. Res. 193. A resolution to reauthorize the Jacob K. Javits Senate Fellowship Program; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. Con. Res. 58. A concurrent resolution urging the United States to seek a global consensus supporting a moratorium on tariffs and on special, multiple and discriminatory taxation of electronic commerce; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 1669. A bill to require country of origin labeling of peanuts and peanut products and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE PEANUT LABELING ACT OF 1999

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I am coming to the floor today to introduce the Peanut Labeling Act of 1999. This bill will require country of origin labeling for all peanut and peanut products sold in the United States; specifically it will require that consumers be notified whether the peanuts are grown in the United States or in another country. The main purpose of this bill is to provide American consumers with information about where the peanuts

they purchase are grown. This bill will allow consumers to make informed food choices and support American farmers. And, with the labeling requirement, should a health concern be raised about a specific country's products, such as the Mexican strawberry scare we witnessed a few year's back, consumers would have the information they need to make their own choices about the products they buy at the market.

Family farmers in America are facing dire circumstances. Farmers' ability to grow and sell their products have been severely affected by bad weather conditions, poor market prices, and trade restrictions. This bill allows consumers to help American farmers in the best way that they can—with their food dollar. Consumers are provided with information about the country of origin of a wide range of products, including clothes, appliances and automobiles. It only seems appropriate and fair that consumers should receive the same information about agricultural products, specifically peanuts. In fact, because consumers purchase agricultural products, including peanuts, based on the quality and safety of these items for their families, it seems even more important to provide them with this basic information.

By providing country of origin labels, consumers can determine if peanuts are from a country that has had pesticide or other problems which may be harmful to their health. This is true particularly during a period when food imports are increasing, and will continue to increase in the wake of new trade agreements such as the WTO and GATT. As I previously mentioned, recent outbreaks linked to strawberries in Mexico, and European beef related to "mad cow disease" have raised the public's awareness of imported foods and their potential health impacts. Consumers should not have to wait for the same thing to happen with peanuts before they have the information they need to make wise food choices. With the labeling requirement, should such an outbreak occur, consumers would have the information to not only avoid harmful products, but to continue to purchase unaffected ones.

The growth of biotechnology in the food arena necessitates more information in the marketplace. Research is being conducted today on new peanut varieties. These research efforts include seeds that might deter peanut allergies, tolerate more drought, and be more resistant to disease. As various countries use differing technologies, consumers need to be made aware of the source of the product they are purchasing. GAO recently pointed out that FDA only inspected 1.7 percent of 2.7 million shipments of fruit, vegetables, seafood and processed foods under its jurisdiction. Inspections for peanuts can be assumed to be in this range or

less. This lack of inspection does not provide consumers of these products with a great deal of assurance.

Another purpose of this bill is to provide consumers with the ability to gain benefit from the investments of their hard earned taxes paid to the U.S. government. The federal government spends a large sum of money on peanut research infrastructure that is by far the most advanced in the world. This research not only increases the productivity of peanut growers, but provides growers with vital information about best management practices, including pesticide and water usage. It assists growers in their efforts to more effectively and efficiently grow a more superior and safer product for American consumers. Consumers should be able to receive a return on this investment by being able to purchase U.S. peanuts.

Polls have shown that consumers in America want to know the origin of the products they buy. And, contrary to the arguments given by opponents of labeling measures that such requirements would drive prices up, consumers have indicated that they would be willing to pay extra for easy access to such information. I believe that this is a pro-consumer bill that will have wide support.

I am also very pleased that peanut growers in America strongly support my proposal. I have endorsement letters for my bill from the Georgia Peanut Commission, the National Peanut Growers Group, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation, the Alabama Peanut Producers Association, and the Florida Peanut Producers Association.

In conclusion, as my colleagues know, we live in a global economy which creates an international marketplace for our food products. I strongly believe that by providing country of origin labeling for agricultural products, such as peanuts, we not only provide consumers with information they need to make informed choices about the quality of food being served to their family but we also allow American farmers to showcase the time and effort they put into producing the safest and finest food products in the world. I believe this bill represents these principles and I ask my colleagues for their support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Peanut Labeling Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. INDICATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF PEANUTS AND PEANUT PRODUCTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: